



JOSEPH A. RICE
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For Immediate Release
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**COURT FINDS COUNTY BOARD VIOLATED OPEN MEETING LAW IN
REDISTRICTING MATTER**

September 26, 2011...Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Jane Carroll today issued a declaratory ruling finding that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors violated the Open Meetings law when it voted upon a tentative redistricting plan at its April 21, 2011 meeting. The case was brought by Milwaukee County Supervisor Joseph Rice in his capacity as a private Attorney General.

In making the ruling, the Court issued forfeitures against both the County Board and its Chairman, Lee Holloway and awarded costs and attorney's fees.

"I am pleased that the Court recognized the importance of providing the public with full notice of governmental actions and determined that the Milwaukee County Board is not above the law," said Supervisor Rice. "This determination is exactly what I was seeking at the April 21 meeting and I am glad to have the court reinforce the requirements that must be adhered to."

Rice objected to the County Board's action at the April meeting since no reference to redistricting was on the board's agenda and subsequently filed a complaint with the Milwaukee County Corporation Counsel and the Wisconsin Attorney General seeking their involvement. When they declined to take the matter up, Rice filed the Complaint in Milwaukee County Circuit Court.

Representing Rice in the case was attorney Richard Esenberg, President & General Counsel of the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty.

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